



## FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

March 12, 2025

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1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Prince, Joe VanDerZanden, Heather Davies, Jamie Palmisano, Chris Weber, Maria Taylor, Kevin Daniels, Dave Hearing

Tim suggested a motion to move public comments up in the agenda. Maria made a motion to move public comments up from number 7 to number 5 on the agenda. Jamie supported the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve by Heather and supported by Jamie, approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 8, 2025

Motion to approve by Jamie and supported by Heather, approved unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Schiffman, resident of 31609 Shaw – Reported that his small subdivision off Grand River could use better connectivity to downtown. He described the narrow sidewalk on the bridge over the river as being too narrow and too close to Grand River for many to feel safe or comfortable to walk or bike there to downtown. He also expressed concern that cars frequently hit the curb at the east end of the bridge where the lane narrows, with the sidewalk next to the road there. He questioned if the sidewalk could be moved behind the guardrail for increased safety, suggesting that there is space for a sidewalk there.

Mr. Schiffman also suggested that traffic speed could be better controlled with signs like the city of Novi has, with radar detecting and displaying drivers' speeds and flashing red lights when over the limit and green when they are driving under the speed limit.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. COUNCIL FEEDBACK ON PRESENTATION

Discussed the positive reactions and feedback from the Farmington City Council following the recent Pathways Committee annual presentation to the council. Johnna Balk brought up that the local library offers a grant writing class that may be helpful for interested council members. Steve Schneeman expressed interest in the crosswalk projects and would be willing to help with letter writing to MDOT to assist in the project.

b. GRAND RIVER PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SURVEY UPDATE

i. Web Analytics – Heather gave an update to the committee on the results of the crosswalk survey so far. There have been 500 responses so far and the link to the survey will be shared again in the

water bill. Most respondents are interested in improving safety of the Grand River. Planned to keep the survey open until gathering updated data for the May meeting. Discussed next steps such as methods of coding top reported concerns and how to move forward. Discussed conducting a study of proposed crosswalks with city engineers and presenting to city council before contacting MDOT.

- c. **DRIVE DIRECTION BY THE VINES** – Joe Larusa – supports the change. Chris updated the council that the city engineer did a study and agreed it is currently a danger as a two-way driveway and either more signage should be added or it should be made one way only and the plan now is to make it one way. Mayor Joe Larusa supports the change. The change will be discussed with local business owners and then will be brought back to city council to make the change.
- d. **MASTER PLAN UPDATE** – Tim shared that the steering committee, which he is part of, with OHM coordinating, has compiled and shared data about Farmington demographics and are working on a community survey that will go out with a presentation at the first farmer's market of the year. It includes much discussion of walkability and safety, the possibility of pump track, and improving ADA accessibility. Much of what the Pathways Committee has been pursuing will be part of the survey. They are looking for people to make up some general focus groups as part of developing the master plan projects.
- e. **REPOSTING OF PATHWAYS COMMITTEE EMAIL UPDATE**  
Chris Shared that the posting of the email address did not go out in the most recent water bill but will go out on the next one.
- f. **GOAT PATH BY SUNNY DAYCARE UPDATE**  
Chris shared that city engineers said the street isn't wide enough to make any delineation for a walking space to include two-way traffic and a pedestrian walkway. There is already plans for when the shopping center parking lot is next redone to discuss with the shopping center owner to combine the parking lots on the south side of the parking lot to increase the number of parking spaces and a walking path could then be included in the plans.
- g. **CITIZENS BANK SIDEWALK UPDATE**  
Learned that the concrete connecting the two sidewalks in front of Citizens was added in recent years to connect them to allow people to move between the sidewalks and not get hit by their door. Both sidewalks are on Citizens Bank property. It is unlikely to have them change anything with the sidewalk again but could be updated in the future if the business changes.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2025 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**  
Chair –Heather was elected chair, nominated by Maria and supported by Jamie, approved unanimously.  
Vice – Joe was elected vice chair, nominated by Maria and supported by Jamie, approved unanimously.  
Secretary –Jamie was elected secretary, nominated by Heather and supported by Kevin, approved unanimously.
- b. **AMENDING OF BYLAWS**  
Chris explained that the current council bylaws state that the planning and building director and the financial director will be part of the committee, but Chris's position has changed and the other position no longer exists. Maria made the motion to change to change the bylaws to state the Assistant City Manager will be part of the committee and to remove the other two positions, supported by Jamie and approved unanimously.
- c. **BUS STOP IMPROVEMENT GRANT**  
The city submitted a grant application to Oakland County to improve bus stops in Farmington, chose 4 stops – Halsted and GR, Drake and GR, Oakland Street and GR at Memorial Park, 9 Mile and Grand River. The city

was awarded an \$80k grant to improve comfort at these bus stops, such as adding benching, more space, trash cans, landscaping and ADA compliance.

d. **ONTARIO COMPLETE STREETS**

Joe shared information he found about a complete streets project in Ontario that visually continued sidewalks through intersections to increase visibility and safety for pedestrians. Discussed considering trying to apply to the Gill Rd. project and identified that crosswalks downtown at the Grand River and Farmington intersection already have this type of visual continuation of the sidewalk. Also discussed the incorporation of bike lanes in the Ontario Complete Streets project and the Target Zero concept of designing streets to prioritize the safety of auto passengers and pedestrians ahead of moving traffic.

e. **2025 WORK PLAN**

Discussed projects to pursue and prioritize for the year including:

- Adding the Rapid Flashing Beacon back on Grand River, including finding if there is still wiring for it present and considering a solar powered one if not.

- Look into removing the tall ornamental grass at the crossing at CVS on Farmington Road to improve drivers' ability to see pedestrians there.

- Develop a procedure to expedite trimming or removing bushes/obstructions of sidewalks and visibility. Chris identified that this goes through code enforcement to inform the homeowner.

- Continue to oversee and push for improvements at Arundel and Gill.

- Get the 3 budget approved Rapid Flashing Beacons progressing and placed. Oakland County should be easy to work with to replace the one at CVS while Grand River placements will require MDOT approval.

f. **ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?**

- Heather shared that there is a hole in the sidewalk near Farmington and Alta Loma like a hole for a pole that was never put in. Said has been there since the area was redone around 2023.

- Joe shared that the sidewalk along TJ Max heading back to the parking lot could use a ramp as it is a big step down and is painted off to keep cars from parking but is not accessible to wheelchairs or strollers making them instead enter and walk in the street in traffic back to the parking lot. This property belongs to the shopping center so it would require them choosing to change it.

- Maria shared that a resident expressed that it is hard to see and too tight of a turn to turn right onto Shiawassee from Farmington Rd heading North. While many drivers swing out wide on that turn the DPW director made the turn in a large truck and said they made the turn okay, they are further looking into it. Discussed that the only fix would be getting property from the owner of the corner property and reengineering the turn to remove some of the corner.

- Maria reported that at the most recent city council meeting there was a complaint that many people drive through the stop sign on Shiawassee at Prospect by the high school and they would like a fix that is non-enforcement driven. Public safety is going to go out there and see how many people are running it but identified nothing really to change other than more police presence to enforce stopping at the sign.

- Heather reported noticing walking to the library from the back of city hall that the parking enforcement vehicle and other trucks were backed into the parking spaces, overhanging and blocking the sidewalk.

g. **ANY NEW CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS?**

The winery has been purchased and was closed on in January. The city is waiting to meet with the owners and don't yet know their plans for the building but work has begun on cleaning out the building with dumpsters being filled and then fixing the roof if next.

The latest plans for the art park connecting the Hillside Townes to Grand River were reviewed.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT  
None
9. ADJOURNMENT: 9:10 pm

Next meeting: APRIL 9, 2025